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Reaction Varies

Sahl Throws Barbs In Salt Lake Show

By HOWARD PEARSON

President Kennedy, Vice President Johnson and former President Eisenhower and ex-Vice President Nixon as well as other famous personalities took a verbal beating at the Terrace Ballroom in Salt Lake Friday night.

The "lashing" came from comedian Mort Sahl. Taking his cues from current events, the "modern-day Will Rogers" threw his barbs at the Berlin Wall, television, the Pentagon, the CIA, magazines, business and the National Purpose. Nearly 2,000 persons responded with various reactions, although a few bored yawns or faint smiles or loud guffaws and noisy applause.

The latter were in the vast majority, for Sahl's talent to stand up alone for two hours and keep the audience entertained with virtually ad-lib observations on events of the day is certainly worth admiration and commendation. He does his job well.

Dressed in orange loafer sweater, black socks, and wearing no tie, Sahl was a picture of ease. He started out his show with a joke about Art Linkletter gathering speeches by President Kennedy into a book which has been called "Kids Say the Darndest Things."

To show he was non-partisan, the comic then turned to Mr. Eisenhower with "He has shown an unusual interest in politics—at last."

Then Sahl hit them both with " Ike and JFK have had the same number of days off during their first nine months. I've been keeping record." Next came this comment: "Ike is shown in the papers getting a new car and brushing up on how to drive. He's 71. The papers show Kennedy in a rocking chair. He's 41."

So it went all evening. The Central Intelligence Agency, Sahl said, "has a foreign policy that's different from that of the State Department. And sometimes the CIA policy coincides with that of the U.S." He later said the CIA is the only "marked espionage building in the world. Its parking spaces also are marked 'For Spies.'"

Telling how he landed at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, Sahl said he was met by soldiers. "They were all American. No Germans. They're training in England. I knew they'd get across the channel somehow."

Television, on which Sahl himself has appeared, drew this harpoon: "There is no violence on the new police shows. They go like this. A little boy comes to the police and says his dog is missing. The police find a hair from the dog on the little boy's jacket. They spend some time looking for the dog and then admit they can't find

it, so they all chip in and buy the little boy another dog."

Schools, hi-fi construction and price-fixing were other subjects. The comedian concluded his show with a dart at President Kennedy's call for a National Purpose. After telling how he had asked many individuals what President Kennedy wanted "us to do," Sahl said: "I haven't even got my assignment, yet, and nine months of the semester are over."

Joanie Sommers, an attractive brunette, who wore a flashy red dress and long white gloves, was on the program with Sahl. The event was sponsored by Eugene Telealik.